

ER 63-1996/a

20 March 1963

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

In response to your letter of March 7, I am deeply honored that the Massachusetts State Council, Knights of Columbus, should have considered me for the Lamp of Freedom Award. I have noted the list of past recipients and I am quite flattered to think that someone believes that I belong in such distinguished company.

Unfortunately, I am not able to accept. As a practical matter, I have made firm plans to be away from Washington beginning the middle of April.

More important, however, is my desire to try to maintain anonymity for the intelligence profession. The intelligence community cannot function efficiently in the glare of publicity and I have found it necessary to stick strictly to the business at hand and to decline regretfully all requests for public engagements.

Let me reiterate that the proposed honor touches me deeply, but I trust you will understand the compelling reasons which dictate my reasons for declining.

Sincerely,

John A. McCone  
Director

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